Regular Mishaps in Ordnance Factory

1523. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been regular mishaps in Ordnance factory in general and in Ammunition factory in particular at Kirkee (Pune) Maharashtra;

(b) if so, factory-wise details of mishaps during the last five years showing loss of property/life and number of employees disabled/injured; and

(c) whether any system has been evolved for prevention through experts or prevention is carried only on conventional basis?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Mishaps involving explosives have, on occasion, occurred in the Ordnance Factories. The incidents involving damages or injuries during the last five years are as under:

Sl. No.	Factory	Date of accident	Losses		Number of employees who suffered	
			Properties (Rs. in lakhs approx.)	Human lives	Disability	Injury
1.	Ordnance Factory, Khamaria	16.9.1993	5.7	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Ordnance Factory, Chanda	21.12.1993	0.03	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Ordnance Factory, Dehu Road	12.7.1994	0.08	1	Nil	1
4.	Ammunition Factory, Kirkee	10.10.1994	18.2	9	Nil	3
5.	Ordnance Factory, Dehu Road	3.12.1994	1.0	NIl	NIl	13
6.	Ordnance Factory, Itarsi	21.8.1995	4.49	3	Nil	2
7.	Ordnance Factory, Khamaria	12.9.1995	0.24	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Ordnance Factory, Itarsi	25.10.1995	24.78	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Ordnance Factory, Bhandara	7.8.1997	68.48	Nil	Nil	6
10.	Ammunition Factory, Kirkee.	4.4.1998	(Assessment not yet completed by Board of Inquiry, but expected to be negligible.	Nil	Nil	3
			123.00	13	Nil	28

Safety measures and directives are adopted in the ammunition factories in accordance with prescribed manuals and the advice of experts. Besides, regular training programmes are conducted on safety for all employees. General safety directives are explained to each employee in the work area.

Non-lethal Equipment for Army

1524. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of Army Headquarters placed sometime in 1993 for modern non-lethal equipment to enhance counter-insurgency operations has not been met so far;

(b) if so, what are the difficulties in meeting the equipment demand to counter insurgency in various parts of the country; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to procure the requisite equipment for the army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A proposal from Army Headquarters, received in 1996, for procurement of non-lethal weapon system is under consideration of the Ministry, in consultation with different related agencies. The proposal, orginally received, was for procurement of the system from a single foreign vendor. Our Defence/Military Attaches, abroad, have been requested to identify more sources to generate competition. Simultaneously, development and procurement of the system from indigenous sources is also being considered.

Appraisal of IAF management system

1525. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late, there has been growing dissatisfaction and unrest often leading to indiscipline in the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any critical appraisal of the IAF management system to identify the causes for such a situation;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) According to Air Hqrs it is not true that there is growing dissatisfaction and unrest leading to indiscipline in Indian Air Force as such. However, some service personnel and their families showed resentment against recommendations of V Pay Commission.

(b) and (c) The main demands of IAF personnel were for the rationalisation of allowances and pay scales and for review of V Central Pay Commission awards, for different branches of the Indian Air Force, as apprised to the Government.

(d) A Committee helped by Defence Secretary has since looked into all these aspects, and made recommendations which are under consideration of the Government.

गुजरात में सेवानिवृत्त रक्षा कर्मचारी

1526. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात राज्य में सेवानिवृत्त रक्षा कर्मचारियों को क्या-क्या मौलिक और प्राथमिक सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराई जा रही हैं;

(ख) क्या उनके उत्थान के लिए कोई कल्याण कोष की स्थापना की गई है;

(ग) क्या उनकी सेवाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए उन्हें प्रदान की जा रही सुविधाएं पर्याप्त नहीं हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार सुविधाओं में वृद्धि करने पर विचार कर रही है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नांडीज़): (क) से (घ) भूतपूर्व सैनिकों का पुनर्वास एवं कल्याण, केन्द्र एवं राज्य